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July-August 2017

Message From The Chair

Welcome back everyone for another academic year! As we head into fall, I note that we have a number of exciting transitions at play that will require we keep mindful of our critical roles as educators, researchers and clinicians to work through them.

This includes the Banner – UMC Tucson and South move from the Epic electronic health record system to Cerner. Go-live occurs Oct. 1, with a "soft" go-live in mid-September. A lot of work by a lot of people is going on behind the scenes to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible. Please make sure you have met all training and other requirements. Expect at-the-elbow support throughout the process, but that will drop off toward year end. Pre-conversion coaching starts Sept. 11, conversion coaching runs Oct. 2-25 and optimization coaching is Nov. 7-Dec. 21. For more detail, see [this presentation \[PDF in workplace\]](#). Thanks go out to **Dr. Tammy Clark Ojo** and her team.



Banner also expects to roll out a new "Find A Doc" function to its website, so providers should review their profiles and let division or unit admins know if information needs to be updated. All revised profiles should be uploaded by Sept. 18. This will do much to increase provider visibility for patients seeking treatment by all our wonderful physicians—faculty and trainees (fellows and residents) included.

Furthermore, planning is underway as we get closer to completion of new Banner – UMC hospital and clinical facilities at main and north campuses. Toward the end of the year, we'll begin to see movement of people and equipment. As all of these things can add to stress loads, a positive attitude throughout will help everyone. Let's remember to be patient and professional with each other.

That said, as you'll read in this newsletter, we have much to be positive about. This was underscored Aug. 30 in College of Medicine – Tucson **Dean Charles Cairns'** "State of the College" address. Highlights include record medical student and GME applications, curriculum renewal, the best *U.S. News* clinical rankings in a decade and another record year for research. Many positive advances have been made in the UA-Banner partnership also, including more than 200 new faculty posts approved, greater

engagement and removal of a non-compete clause in provider contracts. “That was Banner’s recognition that they want people to want to stay here because of the environment and the service and the opportunity—and not because they had to,” Dr. Cairns said.

As with everything in life, it’s often easier to meet challenges as a team, rather than individually. I’m glad that I can look across the faculty and staff in our 14 divisions and see that the sum of our parts makes us more effective as a team. Thank you all for your contributions to that end. Let’s have a great year.

Monica Kraft, MD

Robert & Irene Flinn Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP 5	Infectious Diseases Grand Rounds: Dr. Anita Koshy - "CNS Parasites: Diagnosis and Treatment"	SEP 6	Petersen HIV Clinic Meet-Your-Pharmacist - "Save a Life: Carry Naloxone"	SEP 6	Living Healthy with Arthritis: Drs. Ann Skulas-Ray and Donato Romagnolo - "Nutrition and Inflammation"
SEP 9	"Beyond Cancer: Finding Spirit" - Miguel Flores Jr., CEO, Holistic Wellness Counseling	SEP 11	Advances in Aging: Dr. Cynthia Thompson – "Diet and Healthy Aging: Lessons from Women’s Health Initiative"	SEP 14	DOM Research Seminar Series: Drs. Craig Stump and Charles Downs

SPOTLIGHTS



NIH \$4.8M Grant to Valley Fever Center to Speed Vaccine Development

The UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence, led by **Dr. John Galgiani**, will use the money to accelerate development of a Valley fever vaccine for dogs that it’s hoped will lead to a successful human vaccine. A California-based biotech company, Anivive Lifesciences, which has licensed the candidate vaccine from the UA, and Colorado

State University have joined the center in that effort. UA co-investigators include **Drs. Marc Orbach, Jeff Frelinger and Lisa Shubitz...**



Banner – UMC Tucson's *U.S. News* 'Best Hospital' Rankings Best in Decade

In addition to being No. 1 in Southeastern Arizona and No. 2 in the state, the hospital is nationally ranked in cancer, geriatrics, gynecology and pulmonary care—the first time in **nearly a decade** that many of our specialties have been recognized nationally. We also earned high-performing ratings in four more specialties, three in our department (diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology and GI surgery, and nephrology) and five adult procedures (heart bypass surgery, heart failure, colon cancer surgery, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer surgery)...



Dozen New Physicians Join Faculty in UA Department of Medicine

The UA Department of Medicine welcomed a dozen new physicians in its various divisions over the past several weeks, among them Drs. Sophia Airhart, Nathan Copeland and Sarah Patel. They are among three new faculty members in Inpatient

Medicine, two in Cardiology and Hematology and Oncology, and one each in Endocrinology; Nephrology; Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine; and Rheumatology. Several more are scheduled to start through mid-October...

RESEARCH



Kidney News Shines on 'All of Us' Research Program

UA nephrologist **Dr. Akinlolu Ojo**, a principal investigator on the Arizona All of UsSM/Precision Medicine Initiative Research Program, was quoted extensively in an article on the program that appears in the August issue of the *ASN Kidney News*, a publication of the American Society of Nephrology. Read the full article here...

[more](#)



First 2017-18 'DOM Research Seminar' Set for Sept. 14

Endocrinology's **Dr. Craig Stump** and **Dr. Charles Downs**, a pulmonary and critical care researcher in the Division of Translational and Regenerative Medicine, lead off the second year of DOM Research Seminars on Thursday, Sept. 14, noon-1 p.m., COM-T Room 5403. See the full calendar here, including Nov. 9 guest speaker **Dr. Judith Voynow**, of the VCU Children's Hospital of Richmond Cystic Fibrosis Center...

[more](#)



Study on Obese Asthmatics' Struggles Seeks Remedy

More so than others, obese asthma patients struggle with control of their disease — and symptoms that worsen with time. A team of researchers, led by the UA's **Drs. Monica Kraft** and **Julie Ledford**, found an explanation and has begun developing a therapy to address it. Their paper appeared in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*...

[more](#)

EDUCATION



DOM Blog - Education: Training the Next Generation of Physicians for Arizona and Beyond

New education specialist for the UA Department of Medicine **Susan Ellis, EdS**, talks about creation of a "Tools for Teaching" online toolkit and updates to the Faculty & Staff Resources section of our website. Look here for tips on how to sharpen your teaching acumen and other ways in which you can better connect with students and trainees. Look for new initiatives from the Education Committee this fall...

[more](#)

EDUCATION



Class of 2021 White Coat Ceremony Draws DOM Docs

The UA College of Medicine – Tucson’s 23rd Annual White Coat Ceremony welcomed 120 new students into the Class of 2021 at Centennial Hall on July 21. About a dozen DOM physicians attended the presentation of the students’ first white coats and stethoscopes. Among them: **Drs. John Bloom, Lori Fantry, Monica Kraft, Frank Marcus, Kevin Moynahan, Prabir Roy-Chaudhury, Raed Sukerji and Andrew Yeager**. See the video and photos here...

[more](#)

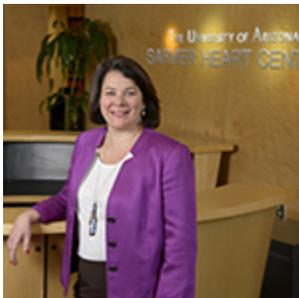


Banner New Resident Orientation Draws 700+ Docs

Incoming UA College of Medicine – Tucson residents, chief residents and fellows attended the June 23 Banner – UMC New Resident Orientation, hosted by the Marriott Tucson University Park Hotel. Across all departments, 711 resident physicians are in training. Of those, the Internal Medicine program is the largest with 93 at Tucson Campus and 31 at South Campus. See the pictures...

[more](#)

FACULTY



UA@Work: Dr. Sweitzer Q&A – 'Minds and Hearts

The UA Division of Cardiology chief and UA Sarver Heart Center director **Dr. Nancy Sweitzer** is the latest DOM faculty member spotlighted by UA@Work's “Lo Que Pasa” newsletter. An expert in heart failure and transplant cardiology, she also is an avid knitter and—being a Wisconsin native—enjoys the good beer now available with so many craft breweries...

[more](#)



UA Academic Leadership Institute Picks Parthasarathy

Interim UA pulmonary division chief and UAHS Center for Sleep and Circadian Sciences director, **Dr. Sairam Parthasarathy** (left) is among 24 UA faculty and staff members chosen for the Academic Leadership Institute’s Class of 2017-18 fellows. The institute involves a yearlong professional development program in which current and emerging campus leaders participate in discussions and workshops to help further develop their leadership skills...

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FACULTY



Get Your New DOM Core, Key Clinical Faculty Guide

The Core and Key Clinical Faculty Guide for the UA Department of Medicine has been updated for the 2017-18 academic year beginning July 1. In addition to **Dr. Amy Sussman**, who became vice chair for education in March, and **Susan Ellis**, who started with the DOM education program July 3, others new to the guide this year are: **Drs. Katherina Beeler, Janet Campion, Lori Fantry, Anca Georgescu and Elizabeth Juneman**. New chief residents also are listed...

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CLINICAL



Banner Quick Care Clinics Open in Phoenix, Tucson

In another effort to be more consumer focused, Banner Health has opened three new retail-based health clinics. The Banner Quick Care clinics are located in Safeway grocery stores. Two Phoenix-area locations opened Aug. 1, and a Tucson location Aug. 9. These retail clinics allow walk-in consumers of all ages to receive an array of health care services seven days a week. They do not offer lab or imaging services or urgent care needs such as care for broken bones or severe cuts...

[more](#)



DOM Physicians Make Up Quarter of UA 'Top Doctors'

Congratulations to the 98 physicians associated with Banner – UMC and the UA College of Medicine – Tucson included among the 2017 Top Doctors in July's edition of *Tucson Lifestyle*. Twenty-five are affiliated with the UA Department of Medicine, the largest department in the college with more than 200 faculty physicians. The local list is pulled from a national listing compiled by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd...

[more](#)



Contact List for DOM Admin Staff Now Updated

The newest member of the UA Department of Medicine administrative staff is **Angelica Mercado**, an administrative assistant supporting the Banner - University Medical Center South Cardiology team. See and save our updated departmental UA/Banner Administrative Support/Program Coordinators List, which is posted here...

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IN OTHER NEWS

Cardiology



Two new one-year fellowships for heart failure and electrophysiology have been launched in the UA Division of Cardiology, led by **Drs. Jennifer Cook** and **Mathew Hutchinson**, respectively... **Dr. Nancy Sweitzer** won a \$2.6 million NIH grant to counter cognitive loss in CABG surgery patients... The Fraternal Order of Eagles donated \$5,000 for the center's Biorepository... And the Heart Transplant Program sets a record of 10 transplants in nine months. Read more in the latest *Sarver Heart Center Newsletter*...

[more](#)



The UA Division of Cardiology and UA Sarver Heart Center were well represented at the Complex Cardiovascular Catheter Therapeutics C3 2017 Conference in Orlando, Fla., at the end of June. Several faculty members—including **Drs. Karl Kern, Kwan Lee, Kapil Lotun** and **Marvin Slepian**—presented on their latest research. Topics included extracorporeal life support, ventricular assist devices, valve replacement and techniques to improve cardiac arrest survival...

[more](#)



The graduation of several fellows from two fellowship training programs in the UA Division of Cardiology and UA Sarver Heart Center were celebrated earlier this summer. Fellows also presented awards to faculty members—including Best Attending (to be on call with) **Drs. Karl Kern** (*on left*) and **Ranjith Shetty**—and **Dr. Ily Kristine Yumul-Non, MD**, was named Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) Cardiology Fellow of the Year...

[more](#)



Dr. Nancy Sweitzer, UA Division of Cardiology chief and UA Sarver Heart Center director, was named the new editor-in-chief of *Circulation: Heart Failure*, a scientific journal of the American Heart Association. She hosted a Twitter forum in June, posted her first **Editor's Perspective** in July, and her first **Circulation on the Run** podcast Aug. 8...

[more](#)

Dermatology



Your skin health is important whatever the season. In five installments in August, each Tuesday, the UA Cancer Center presented a strategy for enjoying the sun's benefits while protecting yourself from cancer-causing UV radiation. The final strategy, "Skin Cancer Screening," spotlights UA dermatology chief and Skin Cancer Institute Associate Director **Dr. James Sligh**. See all five strategies here as well as a link to UAHS "Healthy Dose Blog" posts this summer—one of which discusses sun safety, too...

[more](#)

Endocrinology



The UA Division of Endocrinology celebrated the graduation in late June of two fellows in the Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Fellowship Program, **Drs. Gisell Gonzalez Rios** and **Sukhampal Sidhu**. It was hosted at the home of **Dr. Stephen Thomson**, SAVAHCS endocrinology chief and a UA assistant professor of medicine. See photos from the event...Text for the new story. You can repeat just the news stories under each of these divisions as needed...

[more](#)

Geriatrics



The Home Centered Care Institute, a non-profit organization that works to advance home-based primary care through research, education and training, will partner with the UA Center on Aging and seven other newly named HCCI Centers of Excellence to increase the number of high-quality home-based primary care clinicians nationwide. **Drs. Mindy Fain, Monica Vandivort** and **Corinne Self** will serve as key faculty in the local training program on best practices for house calls...

[more](#)



The David and Lura Lovell Foundation, which funded an Emmy-winning end-of-life documentary that includes mention of the UA College of Medicine – Tucson's Living Will Project, has provided a nearly \$30,000 grant to continue the educational program for UA medical students. The Living Will Project teaches them about the importance of advanced care planning and directives and strategies to communicate with patients and their families on the critical subject...

[more](#)

Geriatrics



The Eighth Annual Interprofessional Chief Resident Immersion Training Program provided leadership, skills and specialized training for Banner – University Medical Center and community-based clinicians. Participating were 39 chief residents with Banner – UMC Tucson and—for the first time—a dozen community providers from Nogales and Sells, Ariz., and Chicago. The event was hosted by UA Center on Aging and College of Medicine – Tucson at Starr Pass Resort, June 10-11...

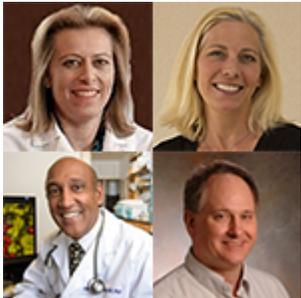
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Dr. Janko Nikolich-Zugich, co-director of the UA Center on Aging and chief of the Division of Immunobiology, was re-elected as chair of the board and CEO of the American Aging Association. His term, which was to expire in 2017, now has been extended through 2020...

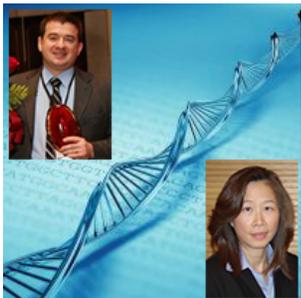
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Hematology and Oncology



Two projects underscoring basic/clinical partnerships in translational research have been awarded two two-year, \$100,000 grants from the UA Cancer Center. Congratulations to **Drs. Linda Garland** and **Heidi Hamann** and **Drs. Daruka Mahadevan** and **Nathan Ellis**. These awards are supported by the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant. Learn more about their research here...

[more](#)



Dr. Daniel Persky, associate professor in the UA Division of Hematology and Oncology, associate director of UACC Clinical Investigations and director of the UACC Clinical Trials Office, was named Leukemia & Lymphoma Society 2017 Man of the Year for efforts in raising \$150,000 for the local chapter. The money helps patients afford copays and funds cancer research. In other news, **H-H. Sherry Chow** received the Sydney E. Salmon Award, and the Cancer Biology Program announced a new Genome Editing Facility...

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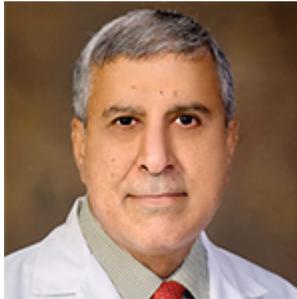
Hematology and Oncology



Two winners were named Aug. 11 for Hero Awards at the UA Cancer Center. **Dr. Cynthia Miranti**, program leader for prostate cancer research and professor of cellular & molecular medicine, won the faculty award. **Carroll Dendler**, principal accountant in finance, won the staff award. The Hero Award was created in 2016 to honor exceptional dedication and outstanding contributions...

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Infectious Diseases



UA Division of Infectious Diseases nurse practitioner **Hooshang Nematollahi**, 62, passed away Aug. 25, after a long battle with thyroid cancer. His funeral was Aug. 28. A 2008 Fab Fifty nurse in Tucson, Hooshang was the lead clinician for the UA Refugee Preventive Health Screening Program and also worked with Petersen HIV Clinic patients. A native of Iran, he worked earlier in oncology, surgery and transplant services...

[more](#)



A burst in media coverage on Valley fever coincides with a yearly increase in cases around monsoon season. But, this year, a journal article with significant findings, newly funded research into genetics of the disease and a syndicated video on research into a vaccine—as well as a global symposium at Stanford University—have made for a busy summer for infectious diseases specialist **Dr. John Galgiani**, director of the UA Valley Fever Center for Excellence...

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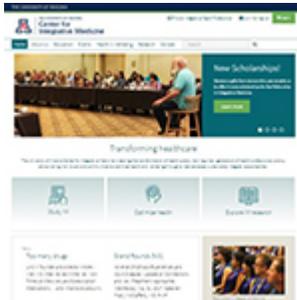
Integrative Medicine



Faculty at the UA Center for Integrative Medicine have shown that an online approach works in training more family-medicine residents in integrative medicine. An article in the journal *Family Medicine* co-authored by center Executive Director **Dr. Victoria Maizes** underscores success of the program in raising awareness, educating and training physicians of the future and other clinical practitioners in integrative medicine approaches to patient care...

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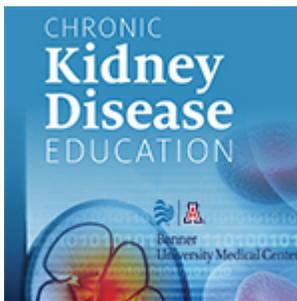
Integrative Medicine



UA College of Medicine - Tucson and UA College of Medicine - Phoenix faculty members qualify for a \$15,000 scholarship for the Fellowship in Integrative Medicine at the UA Center for Integrative Medicine. Read about this and other integrative medicine news...

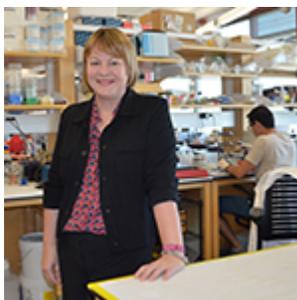
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Nephrology



After a trial run in July, the UA Division of Nephrology and Banner – UMC Tucson have begun a rotating schedule of five informational sessions to help patients with chronic kidney disease and their families better understand how to manage their kidney disease, says nurse practitioner **Jackie May**. The free classes began weekly, Tuesday, Aug. 29. Patients must be referred by a nephrologist...

[more](#)



Dr. Heddwen Brooks, a member of the UA Sarver Heart Center and UA Center on Aging and faculty member in the Division of Nephrology, has been awarded \$1.53 million from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute to study postmenopausal hypertension and renal injury in women. She's joined in her research by **Drs. Janko Nikolich-Zugich** and **Frank "Chip" Brosius**...

[more](#)



The UA Division of Nephrology hosted a Special Fellows Conference in July for visiting international scholar **Dr. Jose Ibeas**, a nephrology consultant with Spain's Hospital de Sabadell-Parc Taulí, which is affiliated with the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and president-elect of the Vascular Access Society in Maastricht, Netherlands. He discussed challenges and opportunities in treatment of advanced kidney disease in Spain...

[more](#)

Nephrology



The Division of Nephrology celebrated the graduation of four fellows June 19 at the Arizona Inn, along with a fifth who will complete his training this fall. Moving on from the program were **Drs. Mohamad Altriki, Anjuman Howlader, Hassan Khan, and Benjamin Sarsah**. **Dr. Kamron Saleem** finishes up in October. Learn more at the nephrology fellowship's recently revamped webpages...

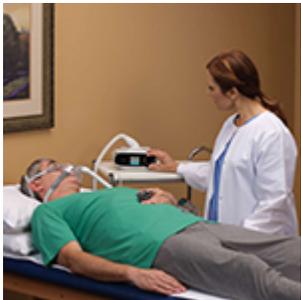
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PACCS



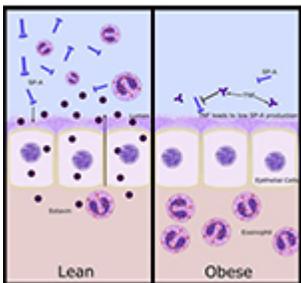
Kevin Marr, director of respiratory care services at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and South campuses, announced the Banner – UMC Tucson Respiratory Therapy Services team had won statewide recognition as the Arizona Society of Respiratory Care's Respiratory Therapy Department of the Year. The honor was presented to the team at the AzSRC annual conference, Aug. 10-11, in Phoenix...

[more](#)



The UA pulmonary division's **Drs. Sai Parthasarathy** and **Stefano Guerra** and biostatistician **Monica Vasquez** are co-authors on a study in the *American Journal of Medicine* that notes, when chronic obstructive pulmonary disease hospitalizations are at an all-time high, 92 percent of U.S. COPD patients studied did not receive therapy to help them breathe better while sleeping. The study was the subject of several news articles in July...

[more](#)



Listen to Tech Launch Arizona's podcast, "Invented Arizona," with interviews of **Drs. Monica Kraft** and **Julie Ledford** about asthma treatment. Symptom severity varies from person to person, and while asthma cannot yet be cured, some cases can be managed through numerous therapies. Many cutting-edge treatments, such as targeted peptides for precision medicine solutions, are developed here at the UAHS Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center and UA BIO5 Institute...

[more](#)

Rheumatology



Free and open to the public, the Sept. 6 Living Healthy With Arthritis lecture, “Fighting Fire With Food: An Expert's Inside Look at Nutrition and Inflammation,” by **Dr. Ann Skulas-Ray**, UA professor of nutritional sciences, includes detailed information about inflammation and where research is headed. She'll be joined by UA colleague **Dr. Donato Romagnolo** for an epilogue on “The Mediterranean Diet and its Impact on Inflammation.” This event is hosted by the UA Arthritis Center...

[more](#)



An Eli Lilly-funded pilot program will allow patients to get specialty rheumatologic care in their own communities from their primary care providers through an alliance of the Arizona Telemedicine Program, UA Arthritis Center and Arizona Center for Rural Health at the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Banner rheumatologist and UA Division of Rheumatology assistant professor **Dr. Dominick Sudano** will train primary-care physicians and hear patient case presentations via monthly multi-site video conferencing...

[more](#)

More Headlines...

UA Study: Energy-Dense Foods May Raise Cancer Risk in Women

Dr. Cynthia Thomson links it with processed foods in normal weight women

NIH \$1.9M Grant Looks at Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Colon Cancer

Drs. Fayez Ghishan, Hua Xu exploring NHE8 protein role in gut microbiome

UA Mobile App, Kidenga, Helps Tracks Zika Virus for Travelers

Now in Spanish, free smartphone app lets users report on illness, mosquitos

Dr. Zain Khalpey Named a 'Leading Physician in the World'

Int'l Association of HealthCare Professionals accepts cardiothoracic surgeon

UANews Stories Cover Health from Tourniquet to Tillman Scholar

Drs. Andrew Tang Touts Tourniquet, Naomi Rance studies hot flashes, David Armstrong fights diabetic ulcers, Michael Johnson tests antibacterial copper

UA Cancer Center at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Opens Thoracic Clinic
Phoenix multidisciplinary clinic lets patients interact with multiple specialists

Quest to Prevent Macular Degeneration Continues with \$1.7M NIH Grant
Dr. Brian McKay shows l-dopa, used to treat Parkinson's, delays vision loss

Healthy Dose Blog Looks at Stress, Healing Ceremonies, Lung Cancer
UA Health Sciences blog posts offer insights into sound mind and body



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